

## IMPORTANT FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

## OPERATIONS OF GEN. LANDER.

## BREAKING UP OF A REBEL CAMP.

## Opening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Hancock.

## OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM GEN. LANDER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1862.

The following important news was received here to-day:

PAWPAW, Va., Feb. 14—S. P. M.

Major General G. B. McClellan:

The railroad was opened to Hancock this morning, also the telegraph.

We had an important force reconnoissance last night, which was completed to-day. We broke up the rebel

camp at Blooming Gap. We ran down and captured

sixteen hundred prisoners, among them colonels, lieutenants, captains, &c.

We engaged them with four hundred cavalry. Our

infantry was not near enough to support the cavalry, and

the enemy were retreating.

We have in all seventy-five prisoners, and killed

thirteen of the enemy, and lost two men and six horses

at their first fire. I led the charge in person, and it was

a complete surprise.

Colonel Carroll, commanding the Fifth or Eighth Ohio,

made a very daring and successful reconnoissance immediately

afterwards to Unger's Store.

Major Frothingham is entitled to great credit for build-

ing, under my direction, in four hours, in the dead of

night, a complete bridge across the Great Cacapon at an

unfrequented mountain road.

Two columns of two thousand men each marched thirty-two

miles, and one column forty-three miles, since four P. M.

yesterday, besides bridging the river.

The papers taken and my own reconnoissance, and the

proof of the capture of the camp, and that Jackson and

Loring are at Winchester.

We made a move and occupied the Blooming Gap and

Point Mill, on the belief, by information obtained from

deserters, that Gen. Casson's camp was there.

General Dumming has just arrived at New Creek from

Moorefield, forty miles south of Romney. He has captured

two hundred and twenty-five head of cattle, and he

broke up the guerrilla band there. Two of his men were

badly wounded, but several of the rebels were killed.

The enemy has thus been driven out of this depart-

ment.

F. W. LANDER,

Brigadier General Commanding.

General Lander, having cleared his department of the

enemy, renews his request to be relieved of his command

on account of ill health.

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

## THE VICTORIES.

ALL HONOR TO THE ARMY AND NAVY.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1862.

The President, Commander-in-Chief of the army and

navy, returns thanks to Brigadier General Burnside and

Flag Officer Goldsborough, to General Grant and Flag

Officer Foote, and the land and naval forces under their

respective commands, for their gallant achievements in the

capture of Fort Henry and Roanoke Island.

While it will be no ordinary pleasure for him to

acknowledge and reward, in becoming manner, the valor

of the living, he also recognizes his duty to pay fitting

tribute to the memory of the gallant dead.

The charges at Roanoke Island, like the bayonet charge

at Mill Springs, proves that the close grapple and sharp

fight of loyal and patriotic soldiers must always put

rebels and traitors to flight. The late achievements of

the navy show that the flag of the Union, once borne in

pride and glory around the world by naval forces, will soon

again float over every rebel city and stronghold, and that

again forever be honored and respected as the emblem

of liberty and union in every land and upon every sea.

ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT REGARDING STATE PRISONERS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1862.

The breaking out of a formidable insurrection, based

on a conflict of political ideas, being an event

without precedent in the United States, was necessarily

attended with great confusion and perplexity

of the public mind. Loyalty, before unsuspect-

have been discharged from time to time, under circum-

stances or upon conditions compatible, as was thought,

with the public safety.

Meantime a favorable change of public opinion has

occurred. The line between loyalty and disloyalty is plainly

defined. The whole structure of the government is firm

and stable. Approbations of public danger and facilities

for treasonable practices have diminished with the pas-

sions which prompted the treasonable persons to adopt them.

The insurrection is believed to have culminated and to be

diminishing.

The President, in view of the facts, and anxious to fa-

cilitate a return to the normal course of the administration,

as far as regards the public welfare will allow, directly

that all political prisoners, or State prisoners, now

held in military custody, be released on their subscrip-

tion to a parole engaging them to render no aid or com-

fort to enemies in hostility to the United States.

The Secretary of War will, however, in his discretion,

except from the effect of this order any persons detained

as spies in the service of the insurgents, or others whose

release at the present moment may be deemed incompati-

ble with the public safety. To all persons who shall be

so released and shall keep their parole the President

grants a amnesty for any past offences of treason or dis-

loyalty which they may be arraigned at Baltimore. Major

arrests will hereafter be made under the direction of the

military authorities alone.

By order of the PRESIDENT.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

## CELEBRATION OF THE UNION VICTORIES BY THE TROOPS.

THE CAPTURE OF ROANOKE ISLAND, AND OTHER UNION

successes, have been celebrated most enthusiastically in all

the camps of the Army of the Potomac.

ORDER OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT REGARDING STATE PRISONERS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1862.

First.—That all applications for parole be sent to the

Secretary of War, who will, in his discretion, except from

the effect of this order any persons detained as spies in

the service of the insurgents, or others whose release at

the present moment may be deemed incompatible with the

public safety. To all persons who shall be so released

and shall keep their parole the President grants an am-

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they may be arraigned at Baltimore. Major arrests will

hereafter be made under the direction of the military

authorities alone.

By order of the PRESIDENT.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

## EUROPEAN INTERFERENCE IN MEXICO.

From private and public sources received here, it is

evident that the tripartite alliance in regard to the sale

of Mexico is not very cordially bound together. The

jealousies observed in the city of Vera Cruz have made

their appearance also in England and France. The

assumption of Spain to press the invasion, without wait-

ing for the co-operation of the other allies, has given grave

offense to England. The harmony of the alliance is al-

ready destroyed. The conduct of France, also, is dis-

pleasing to Great Britain, and there is a prospect that

very soon there may grow out of the alliance itself

one of Sir Lucius O'Leary's "very pretty quarrels."

## THE LUCIUS O'LEARY RESERVE ARMY CORPS.

Gov. Curtin is actively endeavoring to procure the ac-

ceptance of the government of the reserve division of

Pennsylvania Volunteers, now ready for the field. It is

deared that the division shall be employed in a separate

expedition, if the opportunity can be found.

DR. HAYES, THE ARCTIC EXPLORER.

It is understood that Dr. Hayes, of the Arctic Ex-

pedition, is willing to assume the duties of an army surgeon.

He will probably receive the appointment of brigade sur-

geon.

## THE CASE OF MR. WILKOFF.

During the incarceration of the Chevalier Wilkoff no

one was allowed to visit him except Gen. Sickles, who had

access to him at the command of Gen. Sickles. Gen. Sickles

was called yesterday as a witness before the Judiciary

Committee, and interrogated as to his communications

with the Chevalier. He had nothing of importance, how-

ever, to reveal. Major Watt, indicated in Chevalier

Wilkoff's testimony, was also arranged before the Com-

mittee yesterday. There is a sort of suspicion about the

capital that in all this affair of the inquiry and arrest

of the Chevalier, somebody has been decidedly sold.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Mr. Gooch, in the House yesterday, while asking for

a stenographer for the Committee on the Conduct of the

War, boastfully stated that no committee of Congress had

ever kept its proceedings so closely secret. Without any

intention to dispute the reputation of Mr. Gooch, we

simply mention, as a current fact, that Colonel Van Allen

and Major Mix, of the Van Allen cavalry, were examined

yesterday by the committee in reference to the Ball's

Bluff disaster. As we do not wish to divulge the secrets

of the committee, the result of the investigation cannot

be stated.

## THE HORSE CONTRACTS.

The bids for contracts for fourteen hundred and fifty

horses will be kept open until the 22d inst., instead of

Monday, the 17th. The advertisement, which appeared

in the Herald, has drawn hundreds of horse contractors

to the city, and Gen. Van Vleet desires to look care-

fully at the great numbers of bids offered, and the Sec-

retary of War desires that time shall be given to bidders

at the Oldoro.

## THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW JERSEY CAVALRY.

The difficulty in regard to the appointment of officers of

the New Jersey Cavalry, has been settled by the mustering

of the regiment. Colonel and Major Hildesheim, father and son,

were appointed to the vacancies. The vacancies are to be

filled by the Governor of New Jersey.

## REORGANIZATION OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The work of reorganizing the War Department is being

thoroughly effected, under the energetic administration

of Secretary Stanton and his assistants. To-day a num-

ber of clerks were notified, not only that their services

were no longer needed, but they were prohibited from

even visiting the department. An examination into the

affairs of the department reveals the fact that business

has been heretofore very loosely conducted, and that the

heads of the department would hardly have been cogni-

zant of abuses perpetrated by subordinates.

## REPORTS RESPECTING GENERAL STONE AND THE

insurgents.

The reports put in circulation in reference to the exami-

nation of General Stone's conduct as to the Ball's Bluff

disaster, by the Committee on the Conduct of the War,

are simply pretexts for sneers at the General Command-

ing by the insurgent organs. It is a fact that the com-

mittee have hardly begun that investigation. It will be

remembered that the genuine report of General Stone in

regard to that affair has never been published, and it is

known to many who are familiar with all the facts that

a mine of testimony has just begun to be opened, which

will leave the scene of mismanagement exclusively be-

lieved General Stone and the heroic but rash General

Baker.

## CONTINUOUS ILLNESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SONS.

The sons of the President are still dangerously ill.

Serious apprehensions as to the recovery of the young

men have been deepened over all the household of the

White House.

## CONTEST FOR THE JUDGMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT.

There is quite a contest among prominent politicians

from Illinois, now here, in regard to the appointment of a

Judge of the Supreme Court from that State. Senator

Brown has been very prominently spoken of for the

position, but a numerous and influential party are pre-

siding for David Davis for it. A very large amount of

public sentiment in Illinois is brought to bear upon the

President in his favor, and it is stated that the recom-

mendations of his appointment will also proceed from the

State Constitutional Convention.

## APPOINTMENT OF A JAIL WARDEN.

The bill appointing a warden for the Washington jail,

which has passed the Senate, and is to come up in the

House to-day, is regarded as a severe test case of the

policy of the President in cases of insurrection. It is

said to be doubtful whether the federal government, which

one year ago had been thought a model worth imi-

tation, is now so weak to overlook them, is

## MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

## Arrival of the Ninety-third Regiment.

The Ninety-third regiment, otherwise known as the

Morgan Rifles, numbering 1,000 men, arrived in this city

from Albany, per the Hudson River Railroad, at half-

past twelve o'clock yesterday afternoon and marched to the

Park Barracks, where they will remain until Monday,

when they will be transferred to Riker's Island, there to

await further orders. The material of which this reg-

iment is composed is of a first class fighting character.

The regiment left Albany at seven o'clock on Friday

evening, and would have arrived in this city much ear-

lier, had not an accident occurred on the road which de-

layed them for several hours. The accident took place

on a crossing of the Hudson River Railroad, where a

train of cars, with the rate of ten miles an

hour, and at a much greater velocity, which

caused the locomotive to run into the foreman, smother-

ing passenger cars, locomotive, tender, &c., but luckily

caused no severe injury to human life. As soon as the

locomotive was cleared the train again got under way, and

arrived here at the time above specified.

As may be conjectured, the regiment is named after

Governor Morgan, who has had since its inception un-